



New Group Manager Biographies

Western Service Center

John Selberg – Administrative Services



John was born in Seattle, Washington, but grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. He attended Southern Oregon College and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

John began his federal career with the US Civil Service Commission in Anchorage where he evaluated candidates for federal employment. He later moved to Seattle to work in the Civil Service Commission's (later became the Office of Personnel Management) Regional Office where he held jobs including personnel management evaluator, classification appeals officer, and Area Office Manager.

John came to the FAA in 1987 as a personnel staffing specialist with the Northwest Mountain Region's Human Resources Division. He became Executive Staff Manager for the Airway Facilities Division in 1991 and in 2005 added the roles of Acting Resource Branch Manager and Administrative Management Manager for Tech Ops Western Service Area.

John and his wife, Barbara, live in a house built in 1909 and spend time keeping it in condition. For fun John is a regular at the Regional Office fitness center and enjoys working on old cars. He has a 1957 Chevrolet, which he restored.

David Epstein – Business Services



David was born and raised in York, Pennsylvania. He received his BS in Engineering from Duke University and his MS in Engineering from University of California at Berkeley. Since June 1980 David has lived in Alaska.

David hired into the Denver Airports District Office in 1976 as a Civil Engineer and Airport Planner. After moving to Alaska he has held the positions of F&E Program Planner, AAL-453; Assistant Sector Manager, Juneau AF Sector; Environmental Section Supervisor, AAL-463; Sector Manager, Fairbanks AF Sector; Establishment Engineering Branch Manager, AAL-450; Manager, South Alaska SMO; Executive Officer, AAL-410; Manager, Resource Management Branch, AAL-420.

In his free time, David runs and has completed nine marathons. He is President of the Anchorage Running Club and Race Director and President of the Board of Directors for the 5-Miler for Men's Cancer Research.

John Warner – Planning and Requirements



John was born in Great Falls, Montana, and grew up in Bellevue, Washington where he currently lives. John served four years in the United States Coast Guard and was stationed in Guam. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Collective Bargaining and Arbitration.

John joined the FAA in 1982. He was originally hired to work at Denver ARTCC, but two days before reporting was switched to Seattle ARTCC. He worked as a controller and was promoted to Operations Supervisor in 1988. For about eight of those years, he worked on the National AERA Team which later turned into the URET program. From there John was the supervisor in the Traffic Management Unit where one collateral duty was the Military Liaison Officer. He served as the DSR Test and Transition Director where Seattle ARTCC was the first site to implement the system. John was Operations Manager, was detailed as Assistant Air Traffic Manager, and was Branch Manager for Airspace, Procedures, and Requirements in the Western Service Area.

John plays golf every weekend, rain or shine. He attends every University of Washington home football game and likes to travel. John and his wife were just married last year in Ireland and spent two weeks touring the country. When he's home, John enjoys entertaining and spending time in the company of his two grown sons.

Ron Beckerdite – Safety Assurance



Ron was born in Brawley, California, a small town near the Mexico border, and grew up in Bakersfield, California. He earned his BS in Range Management from Humboldt State University and went on to become a farmer in Buckeye, Arizona.

However, in 1982, the FAA hired Ron and he worked at Brown Field ATCT in San Diego. From there he went to Reno TRACON/ATCT and Sacramento TRACON as an air traffic controller. Ron was a Traffic Management Coordinator at Coast TRACON (now part of SCT) and became a supervisor one year later. He then went to Guam

CERAP as the Air Traffic Manager in 1992 and returned to Seattle as an Air Traffic Evaluator in 1995 and became the Assistant Branch Manager. In 2001 Ron became the Air Traffic Manager of Seattle TRACON and ATCT and then the Manager of the Western Terminal Service Area Quality Assurance Branch in 2004.

Ron and his wife, Wendie, have a 22-year old son who works in the construction business and a 20-year old daughter who attends Washington State University as a Business major. When he's not traveling, Ron enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, fishing, and working on his new house in Federal Way, Washington.

Clark Desing – System Support



Clark was born in Sherman, Texas and now lives in Gig Harbor, Washington. He attended University of New Mexico, majored in Computer Science Engineering, and earned his BS in Aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

He hired on with the FAA in 1982 as a controller at Salt Lake City ARTCC (ZLC). He has also been Airspace and Procedures Specialist, Plans and Programs Specialist, Area Supervisor, Area Manager, Operation Manager, and Support Manager, Airspace &

Procedures, Military Ops, Automation – all at ZLC.

Clark moved to the Salt Lake City Tower/TRACON (S56) and was the Air Traffic Manager. From there he was the Terminal Hub Manager, Salt Lake City Hub, Branch Manager, Quality Assurance for Western Enroute in Seattle.

Clark's outside interests include motorcycles and outdoor sports, especially snow skiing.

Central Service Center

Gary Nielsen – Administrative Services



Gary began his aviation career in 1978 with Eastern Airlines in Miami. Between 1980 and 1998 he held positions in both the Alaskan and Southern Regions at the Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), Opa Locka, Florida Air Traffic Control Tower, Miami TRACON and ARTCC, and the Resource Management Branch, AAL-420. In 1998 Gary relocated to the Great Lakes Region. Through 2001 he held numerous positions including assistant branch manager for AGL-420 and branch manager, AGL-610. Gary became a Regional Manager for the Terminal Business Service In 2001. This position

was transitioned to a Terminal Planning Account Manager in the ATO. In 2005 he moved over to acting as the ATO Central Service Area Terminal Services Requirements Branch Manager.

Gary is a New York native. He attended Miami-Dade College in Florida and studied Aviation Systems and Computer Science. He holds a BA degree in Business Management, Air Traffic Control. He is married and has three sons, ages 24, 22, and 12. Along with reading and gardening, a few of his other interests include motorcycle touring, family camping, hunting, and fishing.

Kyle Keifer – Business Services



Kyle was born into a military family in Ft. Worth, Texas. He grew up in many locations throughout the United States and Japan.

He served in the US Air Force as an Electronic Technician from 1973 to 1978 and was stationed both in the United States and Europe. Kyle began his career with the FAA in 1979 as a developmental Electronics Technician, Airway Facilities Division in Midland, Texas. Kyle worked as a RADAR/COMM Specialist until 1985 in the Midland RADAR/COMM SFO.

Kyle has held many positions in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area: Supervisor at the Love Field Sector Field Office (SFO), Supervisory Electronics Technician at the Systems Operations Unit (MCC), and Supervisor at the Dallas SFO II, all at DFW AFS. He was Area Operations Manager at the Lone Star System Management Office at DFW Airport and Assistant Manager at the Lone Star System Management Office in Bedford, Texas. Kyle was also Operations Specialist in the Resource Management Branch, Operational Standards Section, Fort Worth, and Manager, Resource Management Branch, Airway Facilities Division at Southwest Region Headquarters. Also, during this period he served as Acting Assistant Division Manager for Airway Facilities Division, Southwest Region and Acting Manager, Mission Support for the Central Service Area.

Kyle is a member of the Grapevine Walkers/Running Club and participates in numerous races every year. He enjoys electronics and building his own computers. Kyle and his wife, Priscilla, are Dallas Cowboy fans and also warm the bleachers for their daughter's varsity soccer games. Kyle's other interests include canoeing, fishing, and water skiing.

Anthony D. Roetzel – Planning and Requirements



Tony was born in Little Rock and grew up in Central Arkansas. He has a BS degree in Mathematics from the University of Central Arkansas and an MS in Management from Southern Nazarene University.

Tony began his career in the FAA as a developmental Air Traffic Control Specialist in 1983 at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He continued as an ATCS in Little Rock and in Oklahoma City where he also held the position of Automation Specialist. Tony served as Air Traffic Manager at McAllen, Brownsville and Monroe Air Traffic Control Towers (ATCT). In 1995 he moved into a Facility Support Specialist position in ASW-540, and in 1997 he was detailed as a Labor Relations Specialist for ATX-500. Following this, Tony was Air Traffic Manager in Oklahoma City ATCT, Manager of the Resource Management Branch, ACE-540, and completed a one year detail as Area Director of Western Flight Service Operations in November 2005.

He's been married to his wife, Carmen, for 23 years. They have two children: Lindsey is 15, and Blake is 13. In his free time, Tony enjoys reading, travel, computers and target shooting. Tony says he is looking forward to the challenges associated with this new position and to meeting his new co-workers.

David Medina – Safety Assurance



Dave is originally from San Antonio, Texas and now resides in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex area. He is a graduate of St. Mary's University, San Antonio, with a degree in Political Science.

Dave hired on with the FAA in 1973 as an air traffic controller in Austin, Texas. His employment history includes: Manager, Western Safety Evaluations Office; Air Traffic Management-Search and Rescue Officer, ICAO, North America/Central

America/Caribbean Region, Mexico City; Manager, ASW Air Traffic Quality Assurance Staff; Manager, ASW Air Traffic Requirements Branch; and Hub Manager for Oklahoma. He has held various air traffic controller and staff positions at Austin, New Orleans Lakefront, New Orleans International, and Dallas-Ft. Worth Towers. He also worked as a supervisor at Dallas Love Tower, Manager at Laredo Tower, Headquarters Air Traffic Evaluations Specialist, and Assistant Air Traffic Manager at Tulsa Tower. Dave was recently the Acting Program Manager for the Houston Area Air Traffic System.

Dave and his wife, Norma, have three beautiful daughters and a new grandson. His main outside interest is in doing things for his family. He's most proud of his daughters' academic achievements: one is an electrical engineer, another a civil engineer, and his youngest received her BS in Government.

Don Smith – System Support



Don joined the FAA in 1975 as an air traffic controller at the Albuquerque Air Route Traffic Control Center. He has been a controller in both the Enroute and Terminal options, as well as an instrument-rated pilot. Don's career has encompassed Supervisor at Albuquerque Center, the Assistant Air Traffic Manager at Indianapolis Center, the Air Traffic Manager at Denver Center, and Branch Manager in the Resource Management Branch (ASW-540) and the Operations Branch (ASW-530) in the Southwest Regional Office. Before becoming Group Manager, Don was Operations and Airspace Branch Manager in the Central Enroute and Oceanic Service Area.

Don was born and grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, and attended Louisiana State University. He enjoys flying, fishing, and woodworking.

Eastern Service Center

Ron Mulgrew – Administrative Services



Ron, a native of Youngstown, Ohio, began his FAA career in 1970 at Indianapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center. He has worked operationally at several air traffic facilities throughout the Eastern, Great Lakes, and Southern Regions, including a tour of duty in San Juan, PR. In 1991, he transferred to the Great Lakes' Regional Office, Air Traffic Division, and in 1996 to the Eastern Regional Office, serving as Resource Management Branch specialist, supervisor and manager. In 2004, he moved to Atlanta as a Program Manager for Eastern Terminal.

Ron has been an Agency mediator since implementation of the internal Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program in 1999, and is a registered community and court mediator with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

Ron is a graduate of Governors' State University, Illinois. He lives in Roswell, Georgia with his partner of 17 years, Dr. Chai Tunyaplin. Their interests include traveling through Asia and support for human rights and immigration equality.

Lawrence W. Barts – Business Services



Larry grew up in Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. He attended Drexel University in Philadelphia and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

He joined the FAA in 1987 as a cooperative education student at the William J. Hughes Technical Center. After graduating, he joined the agency full time in 1989 in the Accounting Office. Larry has worked in every area of Accounting from an entry level accountant to Section Supervisor/Team Lead. During the last three years Larry has served as the Business Services Manager responsible for business support of the Tech Center organizations. For the last year, he was dual manager of two organizations, Business Services and Accounting, until the consolidation of the Accounting Office to Oklahoma City was completed. Larry is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) from the Association of Government Accountants.

He is an avid fan of the Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia Phillies. Larry plays golf and baseball in his free time and is a certified umpire. He has been married to his wife, Sonia, for six years and has a three-year old son.

Kip Johns – Planning and Requirements



Kip was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and now lives in Newnan, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. He attended Troy State University and Memphis State, Fogelman College of Business Management. He is a master mechanic and served with the United States Army as an Air Traffic Controller during the Viet Nam war.

Kip hired on with the FAA in 1981 as an Air Traffic Controller at Memphis Tower and Approach Control. During his career with the agency, Kip has been the Manager for Air Traffic Requirements Branch in both Southern and Great Lakes Regions, the Manager of Chicago O'Hare TRACON, Assistant Hub Manager STL Tower and T75 TRACON. He was also a Planning Specialist at the Southern Regional Office Requirements Branch, Evaluations Specialist for the Office of System Effectiveness and Evaluations, ATH-150, Washington Headquarters; Kip was also a Planning and Programs Manager and Supervisor at West Palm Beach Tower and Approach Control, and a Quality Assurance and Training Specialist and Plans and Procedures Specialist at Memphis Tower.

Kip's outside interests include restoration of automobile, trucks, and watercraft, and spending time on his two boats. His most important outside interest is spending as much time as he has available with his 15-year-old son, Brandon.

J.P. Mills – Safety Assurance



J.P. was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He earned a BS degree from Tuskegee Institute in Electrical Engineering. Before joining the FAA he worked in the oil industry as a field engineer, killing blowouts, servicing oil and gas wells, as well as in research and development.

He began his career in the FAA in 1987 as Resident Engineer. He then became Program Manager for Lightning Protection, Grounding, Bonding & Shielding for the Southern Region in 1991. J.P. has also served as Supervisor of ASO Technical Evaluation Staff, Manager of ASO-420 and ASO-270, and was the Montgomery SMO Manager.

J.P.'s hobbies are reading, mentoring, remodeling homes, fishing, and writing poetry. He also has participated in Toastmasters and volunteered his time to work at a halfway house for the homeless.

Mark D. Ward – System Support



Mark was born and raised in Delta, Ohio, and now lives in Tyrone, Georgia, just south of Atlanta. He attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and received a BS degree in Professional Aeronautics. Mark served in the US Air Force, US Army and Army Reserves. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, LearJet type rating, commercial instrument helicopter and flight instructor licenses.

Mark hired on with the FAA in 1981. During his career with the agency, Mark has been Air Traffic Manager for Operations/Procedures Branch, Southern Region, Manager Tactical Operations, Southeast US, and Manager at Atlanta ARTCC. He was also Assistant Air Traffic Manager at New York ARTCC, Area Manager and Supervisor at Chicago ARTCC, Staff Specialist at the Great Lakes Regional Office and Quality Assurance Staff and ATCS at Indianapolis ARTCC.

Mark's outside interests include running, woodworking, motorcycles, and flying his 1979 Piper Dakota. He ran the inaugural Goofy race (you must be goofy to do it) at Walt Disney World – a total of 39.3 miles in two days.